

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for supporting operations on program contents distributed at scheduled times, the information processing apparatus comprising:

a program information managing section which manages information on program contents;

a starting program setting section which sets a program at which the operations are started, wherein the starting program is set based on a user supplying a control signal for selecting, as the starting program, program content being audiovisually rendered for being reproduced or watched and listened to by the user ~~or program contents from a predetermined program table accessed by the user;~~

a starting-program-related information generating section which retrieves information on programs in all program states, and extracts programs related to the starting program to generate a starting-program-related information page using information identifying the starting program and in response to the supply of the control signal; and

a detailed operation screen presenting section which presents a detailed operation screen in response to the selection of a program related to the starting program on the starting-program-related information page, the detailed operation screen including a method of operation that can be used for the related program depending on the program state of the related program.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the identifying information includes an ID of the set starting program.

4. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the starting-program-related information generating section generates the starting-program-related information page by extracting related programs from at least a date of broadcast, a time of broadcast, and a broadcast station name at the time the starting program is set.

5. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the program information managing section manages program information including a plurality of items to which degrees of relationship to programs are assigned; and

the starting-program-related information generating section retrieves programs related to the starting program with respect to each of the plurality of items based on the degrees of relationship to the starting program and generates the starting-program-related information page by arranging results of the retrieval.

6. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the starting-program-related information generating section generates the starting-program-related information page from the results of the retrieval by arranging the related programs in descending order of the items in the degrees of relationship to the starting program.

7. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a reception section which receives program contents;
and

a recording section which performs recording and preset recording of the received program contents;

wherein the program states include at least one of a state in which program contents have already been recorded, a state in which the recording has not been made yet, a state in which presetting for recording has already been made, a state in which presetting for recording has not been made yet, or a state in which program contents have not been received yet.

8. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the starting-program-related information generating section displays the program state associated with each piece of related information on the starting-program-related information page.

9. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the starting-program-related information generating section displays an icon indicating the program state associated with each piece of related information on the starting-program-related information page.

10. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a section

which maintains a display history of the starting-program-related page.

11. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the detailed operation screen presenting section presents reproduction and/or erasure of record as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which program contents have already been recorded.

12. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the detailed operation screen presenting section presents cancellation of recording and/or confirmation of presetting as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which presetting for recording has already been made.

13. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the detailed operation screen presenting section presents presetting for recording as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which presetting for recording has not been made yet.

14. (previously presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the detailed operation screen presenting section presents a plurality of methods for presetting for recording.

15. (currently amended) An information processing method for supporting operations on program contents distributed at scheduled times where information on each program content is managed using a database, the method comprising:

setting a program at which the operations are started, based on a user supplying a control signal for selecting, as the starting program, program content being audiovisually rendered for being reproduced or watched and listened to by the user ~~or program contents from a predetermined program table accessed by the user;~~

searching the database for information on programs in all program states to extract programs related to the starting program, wherein the searching uses information identifying the starting program and is in response to the supply of the control signal;

generating a starting-program-related information page including the extracted related programs; and

presenting a detailed operation screen in response to the selection of a program related to the starting program on the starting-program-related information page, the detailed operation screen including a method of operation that can be used for the related program depending on the program state of the related program.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 15, wherein the searching the database includes extracting related programs from an ID of the starting program.

18. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 15, wherein the searching the database includes extracting related programs from at least a date of broadcast, a time of broadcast, and a broadcast station name at the time the starting program is set.

19. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 15, wherein

the database manages program information including a plurality of items to which degrees of relationship to programs are assigned; and

the generating the starting-program-related information page includes retrieving programs related to the starting program with respect to each of the plurality of items based on the degrees of relationship with the starting program and generating a starting-program-related information page by arranging results of the retrieval.

20. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 19, wherein the generating the starting-program-related information page includes generating the starting-program-related information page from the results of the retrieval by arranging the related programs in descending order of the items in the degrees of relationship with the starting program.

21. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 15, wherein the program states include at least one of a state in which program contents have already

been recorded, a state in which the recording has not been made yet, a state in which presetting for recording has already been made, a state in which presetting for recording has not been made yet, or a state in which program contents have not been received yet.

22. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 21, wherein the generating the starting-program-related information page includes displaying the program state associated with each piece of related information on the starting-program-related information page.

23. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 21, wherein the generating the starting-program-related information page includes displaying an icon indicating the program state associated with each piece of related information on the starting-program-related information page.

24. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 15, further comprising maintaining a display history of the starting-program-related page.

25. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 21, wherein the presenting the detailed operation screen includes presenting reproduction and/or erasure of record as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which program contents have already been recorded.

26. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 21, wherein the presenting the detailed operation screen includes presenting cancellation of recording and/or confirmation of presetting as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which presetting for recording has already been made.

27. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 21, wherein the presenting the detailed operation screen includes presenting presetting for recording as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which presetting for recording has not been made yet.

28. (previously presented) An information processing method according to Claim 27, wherein the presenting the detailed operation screen includes presenting a plurality of methods for presetting for recording.

29. (currently amended) A computer readable recording medium recorded with a computer program for executing a process for supporting operations on program contents distributed at scheduled times where information on each program content is managed using a database, the process comprising:

setting a program at which the operations are started, based on a user supplying a control signal for selecting, as the starting program, program content being audiovisually rendered for being reproduced or watched and listened to by the user ~~or~~

~~program contents from a predetermined program table accessed by the user;~~

searching the database for information on programs in all program states to extract programs related to the starting program, wherein the searching uses information identifying the starting program and is in response to the supply of the control signal; and generating a starting-program-related information page including the extracted related programs; and

presenting a detailed operation screen in response to the selection of a program related to the starting program on the starting-program-related information page, the detailed operation screen including a method of operation that can be used for the related program depending on the program state of the related program.